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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,931	01/21/2004	David Louis Heiner	ILLINC.066A	5755
20995 7590 12/11/2007 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			EXAMINER HYUN, PAUL SANG HWA	
			ART UNIT 1797	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 12/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,931

Applicant(s)

HEINER ET AL.

Examiner

Paul S. Hyun

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/26/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain pending. In response to the restriction requirement dated 8/30/07, Applicants elected the prosecution of claims 1-19 without traverse. Claims 20-28 are hereby withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings are too dark. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are

required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims **1-3, 7 and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Balch (US 6,083,763).

Balch discloses an automated, multiplexed molecular analyzer (see Figs. 1 and 9). The analyzer comprises a microplate comprising an array of wells (see lines 40-50, col. 4), a fluidics for delivering fluid to the wells of the microplate (see lines 60-63, col. 5), a light source (e.g. UV lamp, laser) pivotally mounted on one side of a viewing window for exciting the contents of the wells (see lines 35-40, col. 28), a CCD camera positioned beneath the viewing window to obtain images of the wells (see lines 14-50, col. 4), a graphical user interface (GUI), and a software program for providing automated filtering, thresholding, labeling, statistical analysis and quantitative graphical display of each well within seconds (see lines 25-34, col. 6).

With respect to claim 2, it should be noted that the claim does not further limit the claimed system. The claim specifies the chemical reaction occurring in the wells of the claimed device, which does not further limit the structure of the claimed system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balch in view of Zarling et al. (US 5,674,698).

Balch does not explicitly disclose that the excitation source can be an LED array.

Zarling et al. disclose an apparatus for conducting fluorescence analysis of biological analytes. The apparatus comprises a light source in the form of LEDs that excite the tagged analyte of interest (see lines 55-60, col. 5). In light of the disclosure of Zarling et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use an LED array as the excitation source in the Balch analyzer. Zarling et al. disclose that LEDs are convenient.

Claims 9, 10, 12-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balch in view of Dower et al. (US 5,639,603).

Balch discloses a fluidics that delivers fluids to the wells of the microplate, but the reference does not explicitly disclose a means for removing liquid from the wells of the microplate.

Dower et al. disclose an automated apparatus for conducting synthesis reactions in a microplate wherein the apparatus comprises an aspirator for removing fluid from the wells of the microplate. The apparatus can further comprise a centrifuge for separating the contents of a reaction vessel prior to aspirating those contents (see lines 42-59, col. 42). In light of the disclosure of Dower et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an aspirator to the Balch analyzer so that fluid can be removed from the wells of the microplate. Moreover, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a centrifuge to the Balch analyzer so that the contents of the wells of the microplate can be separated prior to adding fluid to or removing fluid from the wells.

With respect to claim 10, although Balch does not explicitly disclose that the system can write the data derived by the software program to a data storage location, it would have been obvious, if not apparent, to enable the system to do so to enable one to access the data at a later time. It is well known in the art that computers are capable of saving data to a storage device.

With respect to claim 14, it should be noted that the claim does not further limit the claimed system. The claim specifies the chemical reaction occurring in the wells of the claimed system, which does not further limit the structure of the claimed system.

Claim **11** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balch in view of Dower et al. as applied to claims 9, 10, 12-15 and 19, and further in view of Eyster et al. (US 2003/0207441 A1).

Neither Balch nor Dower et al. disclose a means for displaying a warning message.

Eyster et al. disclose an apparatus for measuring the concentration of an analyte of interest. The apparatus comprises an array of sample, a light source for inducing a signal from the array of sample, a CCD camera for producing an image of the signal (see [0077]), and a means for displaying an error message if the measurement values derived from defective images deviate from a control value (see [0102]). In light of the disclosure of Eyster et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the modified Balch analyzer with a means that can display an error message if measurement values derived from the images captured by the CCD camera deviate from a control value in order to eliminate erroneous data.

Claim **16-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balch in view of Dower et al. as applied to claims 9, 10, 12-15 and 19, and further in view of Zarling et al.

Neither Balch nor Dower et al. disclose that the excitation source can be an LED array.

Zarling et al. disclose an apparatus for conducting fluorescence analysis of biological analytes. The apparatus comprises a light source in the form of LEDs that


excite the tagged analyte of interest (see lines 55-60, col. 5). In light of the disclosure of Zarling et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use an LED array as the excitation source in the modified Balch analyzer. Zarling et al. disclose that LEDs are convenient.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul S. Hyun whose telephone number is (571)-272-8559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PSH
11/29/07


Jill Warden
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